MAYOR ELY'S MESSAGE.

Exhaustive Review of the City Government for 1877.

REDUCTION OF SALARIES.

Suggestions Concerning Taxation and the Public Debt.

FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS.

4 Word for Rapid Transit, Education and Charity.

At the organization of the new Board of Aldermen pesterday Mayor Ely sent in his annual Message, of which the following is a condensed report:---EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, MAYOR'S OFFICE, New York, Jan. 7, 1878.

TO THE HONORABLE THE COMMON COUPCIL:-I am directed by the charter to communicate from time to time to your honorable body my views and nions concarning the city government and its various branches. In regard to the system of our city government generally I would say that it appears to me to be unnecessarily complex and deficient in regu-larity and unity. In illustration of this I would roler to a recent public conference concerning the street in order to dispose of a load of street dirt the assent of three city and two State departments was needed, no one of which seemed to be in sympathy with any of the others. An attempt was made last winter, by a committee composed of some of our best citizens, to obtain relief from this condition municipal confusion by means of legislaand with this view bills were prepared which in their general provisions were approved by the Counsel to the Corporation, the Comptroller and myself; but assisted by many nonorable gentlemen in the they had become so amended and aftered that he felt natrained to withhold his approval. During the our months in which these bills were pending the aployes of the city government were interested in ously impair their usefulness in their respective ments. It is to be hoped that the enactments Legislature at its present session in reference

Bureau of Permits added to that department in 1873, with a payroli of \$10,000.

By the charter of 1873 the Bureau for the Collection of Assessments was transferred from the Department of Public Works to the Finance Department. Provious to the works to the charter the compensation of the bureau was

repriations to the Department of Public Parks, as a the table, are for all purposes that are puld from a certain salaries and expenses of that department paid from the proceeds of bonds, capriations to the Police Department, shown in the re for the salaries of that department, exclusive of the Bureau of Street Cleaning.

table, are for the salaries of that department, exclusive of those of the fureau of Street Cleaning.

PURTHER REDUCTIONS.

A comparative statement of appropriations made by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for the city departments and offices for 18/7 and 1875 also shows a considerable diminution of the total expenditures of the city government, the amount of fluid estimates allowed for 1875 being 202, 543, 2694 48, and those allowed for 1875 being but \$27,579,077 12. Of the \$9,000,000 inclused in the estimate of the Board of Apportionment for interest on bonds relonging to the city, how in the sinking fund, and which will be added to that fund and applied to the payment of the permanent debt of the city. Not in the sinking fund, and which will be added to that fund and applied to the payment of the permanent debt of the city. Not in the sinking fund, and which withstanding the above evidence of a gradual diminution of expanditure I think economy can be pushed much further in this direction without impairing the efficiency of the city government.

much further in this direction which the distribution of the city povernment.

Pound near.

The amount of the public indebtedness is always a matter of interest. The last report of the Comptroller shows that the debt of the city is as follows:—

Dec. 31, 1876. * Dec. 31, 1877.

Funded debt, payable from taxation and the studing land... \$119,631,313 28 \$121,440,123 15 Deduct bonds aready purchased and now book by Commissioners of the Sinking Fund..... 28,296,247 40 31,650,007 54

Net permanent debt \$91,335,065 88 \$90,360,125 61 emporary debt, payable wholly or in part from assessments. 22,371,400 00 21,329,500 00 se bonds, spe-

Totals..... \$119.811,310 39 \$117.741,050 00

• in addition to this, I think a market for at least onefourth of our entire city debt in bonds of small donominations at four and a naif per cent angual interest might be found among the industrial clauses of
the city, whose district of svings multiulions would
lead them to seek such an investment. The taxation
for the year just passed was based upon general valuations not greatly differing from those of the year or
two preceding; consequently, to many instances,
these assessments have been on valuations much
greater than the present market value of the property.

This, if continued, would work a double wrong. First,

ments, it is noisy, as compared with the asphalt or macadamized streets of Fars and Vienna.

The deficient supply of Croton water has attracted much attention during the past year. The supply during the drought of last fall was so diminished as to seriously inconvenience our people. The new reservoir, however, which will be completed early next spring, near Brewster's Station, will hold three to four thousand militions of gallona. This, in addition to our present resources, will supply at all seasons of the year the 90,000,000 of gallona daily, which is all that can safely be carried to the city by the present squeduct, and this quantity must scalled for all our uses until returning prosperity or a better financial condition will warrant us in the expenditure of about twenty militions of dollars, which would be requisite for the construction of an additional aqueduct. For some years past water has been supplied for the shipping of the city and for building purposes through a contract under which this work was done expired and contract under which this work was done expired June 4, 1877, and since that time this work has been done directly by the Department of Public Works with the host gratifying results, as a net sum of \$99,000 has been realized in a period of only seven months, from June 4, 1877, to the end of the year, being a difference in latter of the present system of \$3,400 per month as against \$4,900 per month obtained under contract.

During the year 1877 a large reduction was me from the expenditure for gas for city lamps, and I confident the year 1878 will show a still further lar reduction. In other large cities the gas companiere made a source of revenue. The gas companier by the city above at a large companier.

The Fire Department appears to be conducted with increased economy and is in an admirable state of usefulness and discipline. This is proven by the diminished amount of losses by fire and the reduced rates for insurance demanded by the underwriters. The Department of Public Works has complied with a number of recommendations made to it by this department to lay sewer pipes and put in additional from hydrants on large mains, thus adding materially to the facilities for obtaining a necessary supply of water for five purposes in the localities designated.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The Police Department of this city being more expensive and having more numerous appointees than any other city department, nerits particular attention. In strength and efficiency it is worthy of high commendation. I think it was demonstrated during the excitement occasioned by the railroad strikes inst summer, that, as an organization there is no police in the world superior to ours in intelligence, discipline and physical stamina. For the order that was maintained in the city during the crisis we were indebted primarily to the police. The preventiou of all tumult in this city at that time was not only of immensurable value to the people of this city and State, out, it pre-

spreading into the New England States.

The subject of street cleaning is one which has caused great embarrassment during the past year, and in regard to which legislative action is imperatively demanded. The unclean condition of the streets has been a matter of very general complaint. The duty of street cleaning is, by a law passed in 1872, vested in the Police Department. This act makes it the duty of the Police Department to clean the streets and remove the diri, ashes and garbage therefrom, but makes no sufficient provision for the disposition of the material go removed, and by various acts of the Legislature passed since the year 1872 the Police Department has been impleded in the removal and disposition of the refuse matter taken from the streets, until at present it has become a matter of very great embarrassment.

I would recommend that the cleaning of the streets be vested in a separate department or bureau of the city government, and that the powers of this department or bureau, in regard to the disposition of refuse matters from the streets, be clearly defined by law, so that the duty of cleaning the streets may be efficiently performed by the Street Cleaning Department without interruption or embarrassment from any other department of the city or State government; and I would also recommend that in the event of any conflict between any of the departments with reference to the subject of street cleaning, that the Mayor, or some other authority, be empowered to determine at once the matters in dispute. I am gratified to bettee that the Legislature is already considering this subject.

property owners along their route, will anacobbelly be of great utility and supply in a large degree an absolute public necessity.

Last spring your honorable Board passed an ordinance imposing a tax of \$2 cach upon dogs and made in my duty to enforce the same. Under its provisions 11,991 dogs were licensed and \$23,982 was collected, which, together with the other heems foes obtained through the Bureau of Permits, was deposited with the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund for the reduction of the city debt. Eight thousand two bundred and thirty-four dogs were destroyed, and the expenses attending their capture and destruction, amounting to \$3,050, was obtained from unused balances of the appropriation for the Department of Public Works. Other cities derive a large income from the tax upon dogs. In the City of Paris \$130,000 per annum is obtained from this source. The same city also obtains \$750,000 annually for licenses upon vehicles. The amount received in New York from that source during 1877, through the License Bureau of Permits, was \$43,216. This amount is capable of being greatly increased. Our city omnibus companies pay a license lice established by law for each vehicle. Of our city railroad companies only the Sixth and Ninth awance lines pay the license fees in accordance with their charter. In granting the privilege of using our streets to the elevated railway companies no compensation to the city is provided for, through license lees or otherwise.

to the city is provided for, through license lees or otherwise.

SCHOOLS

I think the appropriation for the present year, \$3,400,000, in view of the abandonment of unnecessary bening projects and the manguration of other practical economies, with be found sufficient for all the necessities of the year. A sum of perhaps \$30,000 per annum might be saved by appointing new teachers at a lower safary than at present pard, and some unnecessary safaries and other excrescences might be cut off. There are a few school buildings in different peris of the city in which the number of scholars is so much reduced by the diminished population of the districts and the proximity of other schools that they are of comparatively little utility. I would advise, so far as it is practical, that such property should be transferred to the Commissioners of the shaking Fund, and by them disposed of in such manner that the proceeds may be used for the erection of new school buildings in the more northerly part of the city, on lands afready owned by the Board of Education.

Excess.

Our community has been greatly interested and excited recently by an unexpected judicial decision in reference to the Excise law. The sudden revival of a law supposed to have been repeated was a surprise to the community, and its unexpected enforcement resulted in great hardship to many. It is to be logical, however, that the whole question will be promptly and satisfactorily settled by the Legislature which is now in session and which is giving the subject prompt attention. Governor Robinson, in his Message, well-savet.

what is needed in to substitute for all existing laws on the subject a carefully prepared statute reasonable in its limitations and restraints, older and explicit in all its provisions, and, above all, complete in itself, to be dulformly, steadily and constantly enforced."

explicit in all its provisions, and, above all, complete in sizelf, to be uniformly, steadily and constantly enforced."

VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS.

I would responsibility suggest that the Legislature be called upon to abolish the office of Inspector of Weights and Measures, and transfer the necessary functions of the office to the Police Board or some other department of the city government.

The opening of Hariem River to navigation is a matter which, in my judgment, should have your carnest and prompt attention. I feel assured that a memorial to Congress from your honoracie body on a the subject would be responded to flaverably in the adoption of such measures of legislation as would result in the early opening of this river to the uses of commerce. The work being done by the general government would save the expense to the city, give many laborers employment and add largely to the general welfare of our metropolis. I will join heartily with you in any mensure you may, in your wiscom, adopt to secure a result so desirable.

The Department of Charittes and Correction, which spends about \$1,200,000 per annum, I am satisfied is conducted with as small an annual expenditure as is compatible with common decency and ordinary humanity. The maintenance of paupers in our institutions, at an average cost of sleven or twelve cents per diem, is certainly not extravagant. Frequent complaints have been made to me during the past year by persons who have visited toe public Mesting the confliction with the labor of the inectangue of the county and State.

In consequence of the depression of business and

year just closed was one of unparalleled hardship, not only to our haboring population, but to other large classes of people of both sexes, and it pains me to say that I see no immediate prospect of improvement. It is, therefore, more than ever incumbent upon us to so discharge our official duties as to make our city potalisity attractive for residences and for the investment of capital, and so to effectually aid in restoring its former growth and prosperity.

SMITH ELY, Jr., Mayor.

THE OLD AND NEW BOARDS OF ALDERMEN-WILLIAM R. BOBERTS ELECTED PRESIDENT

sions yesterday. The former body met at eleven o'clock for the last time, with Alderman Purroy in the chair. Resolutions of thanks were passed com-plimentary to the retiring officials, when speeches The meeting was then adjourned size die.

At twelve o'clock the Board of Aldermen for 1878

was called to order by Chief Clerk Twomey, twenty members being present. Measrs: Lowis and Philips were absent, in consequence of the recent death of a

lowing result:-William R. Roberts, 12; William H. Gedney, 6; John J. Morris, 1; Bryan Rielly, L. Alderman Roberts, having received a majority of the votes of members composing the Board, was then declared

PRESIDENT ROBERTS' ADDRESS.

On assuming the chair President Roberts said :-

alone to deserve, but to merit an increase of this feeling.

Power of confirmation.

One of the most important functions of the Board of Aldermen is the power to confirm or reject the nominations of certain officials who are intrusted with the expenditure of the public funds, the execution of the laws and the projection of life and property. This prerogative is a wise and precautionary leature of all representative government, and particularly in that of our own. A major may so wise, capable and honest, single mined in his devotion to the interests of the people, or absorbed in the promotion of his own personal schemes, but in neither case should the proper clocks or safeguards upon power be omitted or relaxed. The principle is correct, and is no less adapted to and demanded in the interest of good government, in a great city than in that of the State or nation; and it is to be hoped that no change in our municipal laws will ever deprive the Common Gouncii of this wise and necessary check upon the appointing power in our local government. Correction of abuses is good, our prevention by wise appointment is better; for, siter all, good municipal government does not depend so much upon forms as upon the character of those who administer it; and, while some of our laws, particularly that of the Excise act, need immediate revision, the forms of our mucicipal government are such as to meet all the requirements of au efficient and econarical government.

upon the character of those who administer it; and, while some of our laws, particularly that of the Excise act, need immediate revision, the forms of our municipal government are such as to meet all the requirements of an efficient and economical government.

Excision and accommend and economical government.

Excision and it is in the continual government.

Excision and it is in the sentiment of a great majority of the people of this city when I say that nearly all the citis under which our city has satisfied for the last twenty yours are directly attributable to pernicious and partisan legislation at Albany. Much of it has been hatched in the fodiest corruption and more in the selfashuess and antimosity of dissprointed pointicians. Governor Robinson, in his very excellent Message, states that 2,400 laws have been passed during that time for this city and, and that the majority of those were to cover mere schemes for plunder, or to change official power from one class of men to another. It 2,400 legislative acts during the last twenty years have not only failed to benefit our city, but have knoreased beyond calculation the very evils they were promised to prevent, and were the primary and fruirful source from which sprang Echeme after scheme of plunder and misgovernment, why continue a policy which has been condemned by the people of this city and by the Governor himself. Must not the conviction force itself upon the Governor's judgment and conscience that the time had arrived when the people of this city should be allowed to try the experiment, or at least to revive the old plan which worked so well (before the State Legislature resoived itself into a municipal council for this city) of allowing the people of the state to revive the old plan which worked so well (before the State Legislature to free us from this constant interference with our affairs, which has been an uninxed ovil from the first. Levive our present charter as it stands, and any abuses which may exist to the people of the city, who are most d

ensai coase now and hereafter?

COST OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

Efforts are constantly being made to impress the public with the idea that the city administration spends \$30,000,000 a year in carrying on the government, but a giance at the figures will show how unjust this imputation in. The public dobt has been reduced \$2,110,568 09 the past year, and our taxes for this year will be less by \$1,000,000 than they were the year previous. Now, in year of the second.

to business and an advance to the tract.

In this connection I desire to say that in my opinion the Board of Aldermen can do much to encourage the vast commercial interests of our city. We must not shut our eyes to the fact that other cities are rivals of New York for much of the foreign and domestic trade which legitimately belongs to us, and we should leave nothing undone to keep our great metropolis up with the times and with the wants of commerce, which is the foundation of our greatness, the very life blood of our prosperity.

REAPPORTIONMENT.

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REAPPORTIONEET.

There are two questions likely to come before the present Legislature in which the people of this city have a deep interest. One is the apportionment of the state according to the last census and the other the proposed constitutional amendment restricting the right of suffrage on questions involving public expenditures. The present apportionment deprives the city of New York of its proper representatives in the Legislature. We are entitled to seven more members of Assembly and two more Senators than we have at present. This is so manifestly neglect to the people of this city that it is to be hoped the present Legislature will discharge its plant constitutional obligation by passing a just and equitable apportionment bill.

The question of restricting the right of suffrage on financial questions as proposed by the constitutional amendment is contrary to the spirit of our institutions, which are based on universal suffrage. If the possession of money is to be the test of a citizen's rights, duties and interests then poverty becomes a political crime and degrades the man in the syea of his more fortunate fellow citizen. If the principle of minabood suffrage is to be abandoned and money suffrage autistituted our defaulters will be more honored than their impoverished victims. If the principle of manbood suffrage is to be abandoned and money suffrage autistituted our defaulters will be more honored than their impoverished victims. If the principle of the State Legislature and of Congress, and, manly, to the Presuency; for surely if a man is not the or intrusted with a vote for a city official ne's unworthy to est a behot for the Chief Magistrate of the nation, Let us hope that the people of the great State of New York will not, like the Crab, walk backward, but will continue to advance in prosperity and freedom, ever keeping in view the sheet anchor of our theries, manhood suffrage, and the moto of our fleries, manhood

Mr. Francis J. Twomey was next re-elected clerk of the Board for 1873 and Mr. James Waish sergeant-at-

A committee of three, consisting of Messrs, Wachner, Bennott and Morris, was appointed to wait upon the Mayor and inform him that the Board was ready for the transaction of business. The gentlemen pro-

ceeded to the Executive Chamber, and on their return Mr. John Hardy hanced in the Mayor's Message, which was read and ordered to be printed.

Some routine business was then transacted. Aidermen Keedan, Sader, Lewis, Phokney and Morris were appointed members of the Financial Committee, when the Board adjourned to thursday next.

Wolf's coation coates.

The annual farce of organizing Boards of Aidermen and Assistant Aidermen under the Wolf idea as to the legality of the present Common Council was again chacted yesterday in the vesticute of the City Hall. The members of these bodies met at tweive o'clock and appointed a committee to wait upon Mayor Eig and inform this gestleman of the organization. The Mayor told the committee that he had an incistinct recollection of a visit from the same body one year before. He expressed himself as very much gratified to see that they were slive and well. After the committee had reported back the result of their mission both "Boards" adjourned to the plaza in front of the City Hall Park.

MUNICIPAL NOTES.

The Board of Aldermen have requested the Corpo-Mr. Owen Murphy has vacated his office as Police Commissioner. An opinion on this subject has already

been given to Mayor Ely.

Alderman Morris, by resolution, has requested the Commissioner of Public Works to direct the Elevated Railroad Company to place lamps at night upon their posts curring the progress of construction. City chamberlain Tappan has received \$7,214 68 for interest on city deposits during the month of December. The balance in the city treasury on January 5 was \$1,773,449 27.

BROOKLYN'S COVERNMENT.

Mayor Howell Desires Economy and Reform in the City Affairs.

STARTLING DEBT STATEMENT.

East River Bridge, Cheap Schools and Steam on the Horse Railroads.

Message to the Board of Aldermen yesterday after-noon. He says that the time has come when those public affairs can address themselves to the busines i the present and to making the future better than the past. "I count upon your co-operation," the Mayor continues, "and I invoke that of my lellow Brooklyn may be promoted." . He urges that the powers exercised by the chief magistrate of the city should be enlarged and so clearly de-fined that he shall be in a position all the powers of his from the day on which he assumes the responsibilities of his position. Each succeeding Mayor should have the power of selecting at the beginning of his term all officials whose appointment is intrusted to the Mayor. From the officials recently appointed the Mayor says be "cannot even expect from them that sympathy, attachment and co-operation which the head of a government has a right to count on from those serving with him. Many of these exercised at than him for the office of Mayor, and it would be strange if they should lapor to show by the result tha they made no error in judgment in doing so. ECONOMY STRONGLY ADVOCATED.

The structure of the city government can be made more simple and less expensive than it now is. The services is a source of inconvenien o to the people having business with the city, and is an unnecessary expense. The aid of all intrusted with local official responsibility in securing legislation is invoked ments of Auditor, Collector of Taxes, Registrar of Arrears of Taxes and Registrar of the tolly and extravagance of this dupiteating, complex and extravagant system have long been manifest to those who have given their attention to the subject. In the event of the proposed changes all claims against the city will be subjected to the inspection of the department in charge, and of the Comptroller and of the Mayor, besides baving in the first place to be authorized by the Common Council." The extinction of diplicated service in the above connection will, the Mayor confidently believes, effect a saving to the city of \$100,000 per annum. It is therefore asked that the Common Council prepare a oil providing for the consolication of the flacal department, and to petition the Legislature to chact it into law. Single-headed commissions are advected for the duty of supervising the departments of City Works, Fire, Police and Excise—the duty should devolve upon one man instead of three. "The departments mentioned possess only ministerial and executive powers, and these can be better discharged by one man than by three." A reduction of about \$56,000 per annum can be effected in the sainty list by this exchange.

The repeal of the laws now in force diverting a percentage of the excise revenue from the city treasury, tion of duplicated service in the above connection

ties, is urged.

With regard to local improvements the most conservative policy should be followed. Assessments for local improvements should be collected before any work is done or any bonds issued. No improvement of that nature should be undertaken by the city until three-fourths of the aggregate amount of the assessment required shall have been delicated and paid into the treasury.

ment required shall have been collected and paid into the treasury.

On the injustice in State taxation the hayor thus strongly expresses himself:—

The injustice in the matter of State taxation which this of sixy has had to bear so long calls for remonstrance and complaint from all who in any way officially represent our taxpayers. The taxes of the State are, by usage if not by law, apportioned and levied according to the valuations of property made by the local assessors are required to make eath to their appraisals. Nevertheless the startling fact has for years been known and declared, to the disgrace of the State of New York, that while the assessed valuations in the cities of New York and Brookly a approach closely to the actual market value of their property, those of the other counties are on an avorage out little in excess of twonty-live per central that value. Without atopping to comment upon the widespread and complicated perjury presented to view by this fact, it becomes apparent that in consequence of this kaise and unequal system or valuations the two chief cities are compelled to pay twice and three times as much of the state taxes as should larity and justly fall upon them. This injustice is still jurther increased by the maintenance of a laulity system for taxing personal property, which, though lightly efforced in the cities, needs which, though ngatly enforce

State, that it may be said to bear upon the cities alone, THE DEST.

The permanent debt of Brooklyn amounts to \$27,285,922 45, and the aggregate amount of the temporary dobt is \$10,293,000. The tax certificates issued in anticipation of the payment of taxes in course of collection, which them is desirnated as an "incidental temporary dobt," is \$2,500,000. There has been, as compared with last year, a not increase in the permanent dott of \$955,500. In the temporary from account there is a decrease of \$175,000, while there has been an increase in the sinking fund of \$130,617 95, so that the perhability of the city is \$659,882 in excess of what it was one year ago. The city has, up to date, advanced toward the East River Brigg \$5,550,000. The Mayor says he holds himself committed to resist any enlargement of the 62 th part from the contribution to the bridge, except under pressure of an absolute necessity.

The repeal of the seven per contact of 1876 is also

lute necessity.

The repeal of the seven per cent act of 1876 is also recommended.

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No EDUCATIONAL LUXURY.

On the subject of public education the Mayor advocates the "elimination of all mere educational juxury from the school system." It is the duty of the State to afford the opportunity to every child of acquiring a plain, rudementary English education but nothing more. A stop should be put to the crection of costly and extravagant senior houses and there should be no more high sainted teachers employed. He is averse to an increase of the present police force. He deprecates the expenditure of \$48,000 per year for the mathemance of the health Department, which latter in 1870 and not cost more than \$10,000.

EAST RIVER BRIDGE.

To the East River Stridge Mayor Howell alludes in the following terms:—

To the East River Bridge Mayor Howell alludes in the following terms:—

"The progress in the work of building the great bridge over the East River during the post year has been most satisfactory, and augurs a speedy completion of that great work and consequent limitation of the heavy drain which its cost has been upon the manness of the city. And if the anticipations of its projectors and advocates shall be realized we shall soon begin to leap the bouddle and the increase in the material prosperity of the city which are expected to readd from its completion. To hasten that consumination I trust that the work of constructing the bridge approaches will be pushed as rapidly as possible. I hope the time is not far fished when your honorable body will be called on to acvise a system of tolls for the bridge, which, while not restricting its use at all, will enable the two cities to realize a lair direct return on their investment."

The project to creat a public market at the Waliabout, which has been under discussion for several years, he regards as a "more experiment" and he does not layor the propestion. For the present a temporary building for market purposes could be put up at an expense not exceeding \$20,000. One thousand two hundred and seventy buildings were received in Brooklyn isst year, the assessed value of which is \$1,348,300. The Mayor says he has observed with great interest the experiments now being made to introduce the use of cars propelled by steam on our arrest railroads. He will encodrage sit reasonable and proper efforts in that direction. Swift communication within the city limits and to the ferrors is a absolute necessity, if Brooklyn is to compete with the other surroundings of New York for a share of the everdow of the popularion of the latter city.

PROCERDINGS OF THE ALDRAMAN.

The difficulties attendant upon effecting a permit ent organization of the Brooklyn Common Council this year are very great, owing to dimensions among other parties, growing out of the limiture of the regular other parties, growing out of the ladure of the regular caucuses to agree upon a candidate for permanent president. The choice of the regular democratic members falls upon Aiderman Robert Black, of the Fourth word, but as there are four independent members of the Board among the thirteen democrate the greatest needy of management is required in adjusting party lines. The independents are Aidermen Patrick Shannon, Dwyer, McIntyre and O'Riely. These gentiemen coam to have been elected independent of any assistance from the regular machine, therefore they cannot be dictared to by so-called leaders.

The republicans, who number tweive Aidermen, are in a minority of one, acc they are, very naturally, anging among their independent brethren of the Common Council to make og "the baker's dozen"—thirteen—which is necessary to elect a chairman from among their ranks.

The republicans in execus, with the exception of

one of their number, Alderman Griswold, of the Eleventh ward, have chosen as their candidate Alderman Fisher, of the Twenty-third ward.

The Aldermen met in Common Gouncil yesterday alternoon, and, after considerable skirmishing for the honor of "temporary" chairman, on motion of Alderman Shannon, Alderman Ray, rejublican, was called to the chair pro feat.

The message of Mayor Howell to the Common Council was then read by Gay Clerk Bishop. Fifteen hundred copies of the message, 500 of which are to be in the German language, were ordered to be brinted.

A resolution was passed ordering the Manhatian Beach Railroad Company to recompense the property owners along the line of the route running parallel with Richardson street, and in case of their rejusal to do so within thirty days all other privileges granted to the company by the Common Council would be rescinded. The Union Ferry Company having denied that the Common Council had any right to leake the pier and beikhead at the foot of Fulton street to the Annex Company that body resolved to divide the lease, thereby allowing the Annex Company to land their boats only at the pier.

THE SKATING CARNIVAL.

WINTER AMUSEMENTS IN CENTRAL PARK-CREAT SPORT ON THE LAKE-THOUSANDS ENJOYING FUN ON RUNNERS.

It would be impossible to overestimate the joy that

filled thousands of young hearts in this city when it was officially announced that the ball was up in hours of health-giving pleasure on the ice during the day and nights of hilarious and rollicking fun on the frezen lakes. Yesterday may be said have been the first of the skating carnival, and it did crowded all the cars leading to the Park to touch the citizens of New York that the youth of both sexes The boys had generally taken their agates to schoover they rushed from their task rooms with the clistening bindes ostentatiously along over shoulders, and made their way to Park in troops. The girls, too, were not far behind them, and the merry faced maidens formed pretty pictures en route to the winter trysting place As a rule, the girls had added to their ordinary cos hare, a scarlet feather there-which imparted a holiwith a more than usum piquant and coquestiah gra skimming over the chasy surface of the lake; a great many sacques were trainined with fars, and gay colored scoris wound about snapely heads floated in the breeze with a cort of smeeze-mot, jeans heads, chailenge hard to resist. The Mail was crowned with seekers of the glorious ion at about cleven o'clock in the morning and the procession of those who sought the lake at its extremity did not coase out in late in the evening. Boys and girk, young men and old, strangers and citizens, crowded the spot, and the merry hughter rang out on the brisk air with a gayer music than was ever woke by Douworth's band in the same locality. The tee was in fine condition and only a little rouga about the edges. All day long there was a human ring around the borders of the lake, but aimost every second a figure, steel shod, would dart out from it and join the swaying, graceful crows of skaters beyond. Boys were busily engaged lastening on the skates of beginners at the different places of chirance to the field of sport, and these spots were usually surrounded by a good natured crowd of both sexes, who were ready to appliant when some new skater struck oil in graceful form, or laugh at the downiall of an awkward beginner.

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The anusino exame.

Master Tom, aged tou, who had worried his father into the purchase of a pair of New York club skates, perhaps much too big for him, after having them adjusted, starts from the border with a confidence born of his old pair of 'low Darca' rollers, only to find himself with legs sprawing apart, heels in the air and a bunp on the ice that makes him see more stars than there ever were in the indepth neavens. But Tom is a hero, and though his occiput has had a cracker, or his bose a stunner, he gets up similing and rather weakly strikes out again, whimpering to his anxious nurse on the bank, "Ohn, I'm not, hurt," and it he cries at all, he does it away off in a corner by himself, and says it is the cold that makes his eyes water. Miss Rose on the tee is a blush rose indeed; she has on scartet stockings and attracts a good deal of attention from the young fellows who circue around her. At first she holds fast to the hand of her chyalrous boy admirer; but noon delying him with the remark that she can go as fast as lightning, she darks away like some bright plumaged bird, and in low seconds she comes to grief and is sweeping over the ice broadsade, scarlet stockings and all. But Miss Rose is sweet stateen, and she gets up himping a listle and langhing merrily, brushes the ice from her garments and this time is willing to accept the gallant nand extended to her, and to keep it. "It's sten inn to fall," she says. Then there are the old fellows who have skated fer lorry years—so they sny—they stumble by after their blades are lastened with a rheumatic and stiff movement. "Aha!" says one of these, "never feit better in my life; makes a boy of a feilow, hat!" but scarcely is he hauched fairly—in fact, getting on his pins—when a troop of schoology's stim by like a cloud of swallows, and the other and of the lake before he is done rubbing his shine.

THE CROWDS.

paned before origin reflectors surrounded the lake and made a brilliant itiummantion, to which was alord a great sled filled with numerous lights and pisced in a central position on the ice. The effect of the awaying, rapid shaters farring here and there into the illuminated spaces, and out of these radiant places into the shadows, made a wend scene which can better be imagined than written. The music of the better be imagined than written. The music of the ringing steel open the ice, too, was wonerfully fine; there was a hum, a sadenced nurmur in the sound that seemed like some annihar song, the rhythm of which was as mysterious as sweet and could be set as well to moornful as to gleetel music. It was not until eleven o clock—the hour at which the Park gates close—that the skaters consented to forsake the lake, and, doubtiess, they will wait the idings day by day, conveyed by the rea circle on the white flag of the Observatory, that "the ball is up."

The Prospect Park lakes were yesterday opened to skaters for the first time this season, and many avaited themselves of the privilege afforded. The was in good condition and the comfort of the visitors was well looked after by the Park authorities. Capi

EAST RIVER BRIDGE.

A regular meeting of the trustees of the East River Bridge was held yesterday afternoon at the office the company in Water street, Brooklyn, President Murphy in the chair. The Executive Committee reported that new steel wires were needed to replace the traveller ropes, which are now worn out in the passage from anchorage to anout in the passage from anchorage to andchorage, rendering them almost useless for
invite werk. The weight of these wires
is 15,652 pounds, and the cent thereof was seventeen
cents per pound. Power was given the committee to
provide the necessary wire. Charles bevone was
awarded the contract for paving the new street which
is to be opened in the city for the approach of the
bridge. The pavement is to be of long granne blocks
and the cost \$1.87 per square yard. An award of \$50
was voted by the meeting to Mrs. Cambridge, whow
of the man who used recently from the
effect of injuries sustained by falling off a
truck while at work in the bridge yard. Fresident
Murphy referred to the recent fatal accident mear the
Brooklyn suchorage, in which Neil Mullen, a workman, was crusted to death by the fall of a brick arch,
saving it was a matter for the Coroner's investigation.
Notice was then given by Dr. Hall that he intended,
as soon as the Coroner had conducted his investigation, to move for the appointment of a special committee to inquire into the occurrence, and if it was
found that the nondern was due to the carelessness of
any employs of the bridge trustees to have the offending party discharge.

A SERIOUS CHARGE.

Rila Wright, of No. 402 East Twelfth street, who mays she is a married woman, but that her husband has deseried her, went into the Twenty-second street station house about one o'clock yesterday morning and stated that on Sunday night she was knocked down on the corner of Twenty-sixth street and First avenue by a young man who afterward dragged her

THE HICKS-LORD SENSATION.

PAINT CLEWS AND MANY THEORIES AS THEIR WHEREABOUTS-WHAT JUDGE FUL-LERTON AND DANIEL D. LORD HAVE TO SAY ON THE SUBJECT.

The Hicks-Lord secret marriage and mysteriot

disappearance still continue to be the leading topic of

speculation and comment among all classes of community. Mr. Lord seems to have inspired his safety and welfare. It is a strange elopement where the tables are turned on the veteran Lock invar, and he is made captive and carrie off to a castle by his lady love. The traditions of the case. "A laggard in love is a dastard in war" will no longer be an exclusive reproach or incentive to the masculine sex. The report in yesterday's HERALD goes for to confirm the belief that Mrs. Hicks and her lord have taken up their abode at the residence of the bride in Fourteenth street. This is the opinion which has gained most favor with the public, and it is as to their place of concealment. A number of Mr. Lord's friends, and not a few of his family, have become converts to this opinion; while others maintain that "the happy couple," immediately after their marriage, took the train at the Grand Central Depot for an obscure part of New England, Moantime, in the absence of any definite information on subject, Mr. Lord's family are deeply concerned over his prolonged absence. So far they have taken no steps to discover his hiding place, but it has been stated that they are now thoroughly alarmed and have instituted a diligent search and inquiry, which it is picions or allay their fears.

THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY. Mr. Daniel D. Lord, senior member of the firm of Lord, Day & Lord, who is associated with ex-Judge Fullerton as counsel for the absent Mr. Lord's family in the lunatico inquirendo proceedings, stated to HERALD reporter yesterday that the non-appearance of Mr. Lord would necessarily postpone the investiga tions of the commission. In such cases, when the determined, the law specified that personal service of the papers in the case was

a necessary proceeding. The Court can only direct that in the continued absonce of Mr. Lord an expurie examination should be held, but it is doubted it such a course would be regular or advisable. "Have you taked any measures to ascertain the whereabouts of Mr. Lord?" queried the reporter, "Well, yos, in a sense. We have employed no detectives, but we had recourse to less obnoxious means to reach him so as to serve the papers. So far, however, we have not succeeded. Of course we have no authority to search the fady's mansion, and I am by no means certain that Mr. Lord is concealed there; on the contrary, I think he has been taken from the city."

"It is not likely that they would travel alone. Per-"Well, that is quite possible. She is a very clever woman, and she has so lar baffled all attempts to find out her hiding place. Some reports claim that they have sailed for Europe, but I hardly credit the

Were any of Mr. Lord's friends aware of the mar-"Were any of Mr. Lord's friends aware of the marriage or present at the coremony?"
"Not that I am aware of. In fact I am suformed not. They were evidently kept in complete ignorance of the intentions of the old gentleman. I am informed that his marriage was more of a surprise to them than to the public. In fact, they were inclined to doubt the news until the certificate of marriage was produced at the Health Boreau."

"Do you suppose there was a second marriage; if so, there is no evidence of that fact at the Board of Health."

"Yes, they were married twice. Cardinal McClockey.

"Yes, they were married twice. Cardinal McCloskey, however, has not filed his certificate as the law presenties; but then he is granted ten days wherein to do it. Should be choose, however, to disregard the provisions of the law in this particular he would be only subjecting himself to the nominal flue of \$50. 1 can't see, though, why his Emmence should take any risks to withould the certificate of their marriance."

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AR LOND'S MINFAL INCAPACITY.

Mr. Fullerton was of opinion that the detention of Mr. Lord would strengthen ins case. There was no doubt that Mrs. Hicks was carrying out a cleverity concocted plan. Indeed, she was not unlike General Butter's hypothetical widow, "who knew what she wanted and was not afraid to ask for it." So far as Mr. Fullerton was concerned he was clearly impressed with the benefit that Mr. Lord was not a free agent; that his initing physical and mental powers were not able to withstand the blandishments of the hay, who used all her arts and wise to gain her ambilious ends by marrying a rich, aged and infirm gentleman, and thereby secure her dower right of his great fortune. When the commissioners approinted to inquire into his sanity had

"Do you know anything about the minister, Van Kleek, who married them or the Witnesses to the cerquony?" wa asked.

"Marna Miller was Mrs. Hicks' femme de chamber, and Mr. S. T. Van Kleeck is said to be a near relative of the officiating clergymsn."

"Then they were not married by Cardinal McCloskey, as was at first asserted?"

"Yes, they were. There was a double marriage Mr. Lord was a Presupterian, and so the marriage was first performed by Mr. Van Kleeck, who is a clergyman of that denomination. Mrs. Hicks is a Catholic, and she, in turn, appeared before Cardinal McCloskey, who joined them in matrimony. So you see the knot was doubly thed, but, for air that, I think ex-Juage Fullerton will dissolve the ite. The root of this matter has not yet been reached."

THE SEVENTH REGIMENT ARMORY.

GENERAL COMMITTEE ON NEW ARMORY, SEVENCE REGIMENT, N.G.S. N.Y., NEW YORK, JERUARY 7, 1878.

The General Committee on New Armory gratefully acknowledges the liberal contributions to the Seventh regiment new armory tund of citizens, taxpayers and business men of New York and of many banks, insurance and trust companies and other corporations. The amount subscribed (January 1) is \$157,318 96, of which sum nearly one-half has been subscribed by the active veteran and exempt members of the regiment. The ouncations of the new armory have been laid, and contracts have been awarded by the Building Committee for the continuance of the work. About \$120,000 additional is the sum necessary to complete the building. To secure its completion within a reasonable time; to take advantage of the present comparatively moderate cost of labor and materials, and to avoid any encertainty as to available means to defray the entire expensitute, it is highly important that the sum (\$120,000 should be secured without dessy. An appeal for additional subscriptions is therefore respectfully and carnestly made to banks, insurance companies and other corporations not aiready subscribers, and to all who behave that the regiment has served the city, the State and the attoin fastificial as served the city, the State and the nation fastificially and formorably in the past, and that it is likely to be useful in the future in the preservation of order and in the protection of life and property. Subscriptions may be forwarded to either of the trustees of the land, Robert Lenox Kennouy, Royal Phelps and William W. Astor, or to K. W. Weed, regimental treasurer, No. 184 Front affect, or to J. J. McLaren, paymaster Veteran Association, No. 70 William street.

For the General Committee, additional is the sum necessary to complete the build-For the General Committee,
For the General Committee,
EMMONS CLARK, Colonel and Chairman

NON-RESIDENT TAXPAYERS.

A meeting of non-resident taxpayers of Queens county, Long Island, was held in this city on the 27th consider the subject of the tax laws of the county. This committee held its first meeting yesterday (Jere. Johnson, Jr., president) and waited upon Counsellor Sperwood, at his office in Wall street, to advise with him as'to the requisite steps for amonding the obhim as to the requisite steps for amefuling the obnoxious laws now in force. Counsellor Rogers, of
Jersey City, appeared in conjunction with Mr. Judson
C. Taimage, representing the New Jersey property owners in Queeus county, and Messers. White & Smith on
behalf of Mr. Schedier, while the other members of
the committee appeared in person. By resolution the
committee decided to meet for permanent organization to-mosrow, at ten o'clock A. M., waen provision
will be definitely made for preparing and submitting
to the State Legislature the proposed substitute for
the existing objectionable statutes.

ABSENCE FROM DUTY.

The Brooklyn Board of Fire Commissioners yesterday removed District Engineer Burns for having absented himself from duty on December 31 without leave. Foreman James Walsh, of Engine Company No. 8, was appointed as temporary assistant engineer. Samuel Barns, private in the latter company, was made foreman.